

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 75-90 are pending in the application, with 75, 76, and 83 being the independent claims. Claims 1-74 and 91-107 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112***

Claims 78, 81 and 87 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the specification does not provide support for the sample well formats recited in claims 78 and 87. This rejection has been affirmed on appeal in the Decision on Appeal dated May 26, 2005, by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. Accordingly, claims 78 and 87 have been amended to recite that the array of sample wells "are disposed on a multi-well microplate." These amendments are fully supported by the specification and are not believed to introduce new matter. (See page 10, lines 29-32, and page 36, lines 1-14, of the specification). Claim 81 depends from and adds features to claim 78; therefore, claim 81 is allowable for at least the same

reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 78. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

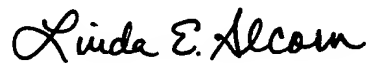
### ***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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